

METROPOLITAN DADE COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD

DESIGNATION REPORT - INDIVIDUAL SITE IN A DISTRICT

Site Name Redland Community Methodist Church

Designation No. 8204

Site Address 24800 S.W. 187th Avenue

Date of Filing 4/13/82

Date of Designation _____

Owner and Address Redland Community Methodist Church, 18700 S.W. 248th Street, Homestead

Site Location - Legal description or district boundaries (see attached map):

Section 26, T. 56 S., R. 38 E. Beg. NE cor of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ thence S. 125', W. 348.5',
N. 125', E. 348.5 to POB.

Dade County Historic Survey Findings:

Site received a rating of 1 in architecture,
1 in history and 2 in contextual significance.

Other Surveys: _____ H.A.B.S.

_____ Natl. Reg. _____ H.A.E.R.

Other: _____

Title Verification (attach copy): Book 3544 Page No. 340 Deed Type Warranty

Current Zoning (describe): AU - agricultural use

Current Use (describe): Church

Current Condition (describe): Excellent

Excellent

Physical Description of Site (attach 1 or 2 photos):

The church was built on a cross axial plan and contains four gable ends. One and one-half stories in height, this frame building has a gable facing each direction with a main entrance on the east gable. The apex of the east/west roofline is higher than the apex of the north/south roofline. All four gables contain vertical siding, a small rectangular color light window centrally located in the gable and a stick style type of ornamentation at the apex of the gable. The roof, of pressed tin shingles, is fairly high pitched with exposed studs under the eaves. Beneath the eaves, the church contains drop siding until the sill of the window where it resumes vertical siding. Corner boards and running sills articulate the transitions from vertical to horizontal siding. The church contains a variety of fenestration patterns. The east gable has tripled windows, each a double hung sash with its own transom. The rest of the facades have single windows which also contain double hung sash units. The main entrance to the church is on the east gable where an off center gable porch mimicks the east gable with vertical siding and a stick style detail. The porch roof is supported with Doric columns and Doric pilasters. The steps and porch base are concrete with five steps. The building is supported on piers and is elevated off the ground. The cross axial plan of the church corresponds well to its location on the southwest corner of 187th Avenue and 248th Street.

SEE CONTINUATION

Significance - Brief summary including documentary evidence that indicates the historical, architectural or archeological significance of the site.

This structure is significant for its age, importance to the community, history, and building style. The church building is the home of the Redland Community United Methodist Church congregation. The church was organized in 1912 under the leadership of the Rev. J.M. Cormack of Florida City. Many pioneer families in the area, such as the Sopers, Roberts, and Hainlins were part of the original congregation. After the church was started, the Rev. J.A. Kahl was appointed pastor. He lived in Homestead and published the first newspaper in the area, the South Florida Banner. Many stories in the 1912 editions concern the land clearing taking place on the one acre tract donated to the church by homesteader Bodil Olsen Kosel. This building was erected there in 1914. The finest local heart pine was used in its construction. Perhaps the most famous visitor to the church was William Jennings Bryan who gave one of his legendary orations from the church steps.

CONTINUATION SHEET:

structure and later faced with limestone. This limestone facing has been retained and gives the house the appearance of being a rock house. Although the building has been significantly rebuilt, it retains many original features. The park itself contains many varieties of fruit trees and a wide array of exotic plants that add to the rural character of the district.

Statement of Significance (continued):

(Use additional sheets if necessary)

Bibliographic References:

Unpublished Sources

Dade County, Florida. Recorder's Office, Deed Abstract.

Redland Community United Methodist Church, Church booklet, no date.

Taylor, Jean. "Redland and Cutler." Paper on file at the Historical Museum of Southern Florida. Miami, Florida, 1980.

Special Standards for Certificate of Appropriateness:

CONTINUATION:

Continuation of Physical Description of Site:

Well landscaped with several towering palms and smaller vegetation surrounding the building, this church is a very well preserved example of rural early twentieth century ecclesiastical architecture.